

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION**

APPLICANT: Minehiro Tonosaki, et al.

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INVENTION: "ETCHING METHOD"

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

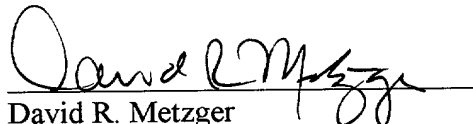
S I R:

Between the title and the heading "Background of the Invention" on page 1, insert the following:

--RELATED APPLICATION DATA

The present application claims priority to Japanese Application(s) No(s). P2000-394339 filed December 26, 2000, which application(s) is/are incorporated herein by reference to the extent permitted by law.--

Respectfully submitted,

 (Reg. No. 32,919)

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